



Cornell University Student Assembly

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Minutes of the Thursday, September 1, 2016 Meeting

5:00pm-7:00pm in Robert Purcell Community Center

I. Call to Order (J. Berger)

- J. Berger called the meeting to order at 5:00pm
- *Present at the Roll Call:* J. Berger [0]; T. Celestin [0]; N. Chovanec [0]; V. Devatha [0]; R. Herz [0]; A. Iglesias [0]; M. Indimine [0]; A. Issur [0]; D. Li [0]; D. Liu [0]; M. McBride [0]; J. Montejo [0]; H. Reichel [0]; W. Rong [0]; J. Selig [0]; E. Vargas [0.5]; Y. Wang [0]
- *Not Present at the Roll Call:* N. Billington (Resigned) [0]; M. Kasher [0];

II. Moment of Silence

- A moment of silence was held for the deaths of Anthony Nazaire, an Ithaca College sophomore and Darryl Wu, a Cornell University junior. Additionally, Black Students United and the Multicultural Greek Letter Council would be holding a remembrance in the one world room following the meeting.

III. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

- The minutes from the August 25, 2016 meeting were approved by unanimous consent.

IV. Open Microphone

- A community member from AAP voiced her concerns about how Cornell Dining was handling the drought measures. She believed that given the use of cardboard plates Cornell Dining could sort recycling and compost the food. Additionally, she believed that better signage and awareness, adapting grey water systems, and a climate change discussion would be helpful to help Cornell fight drought conditions now and in the future.

V. Announcements and Reports

- Farmers Market – Rep. Reichel stated the first farmers market of this year was held on the agriculture quad today, and had the most traffic she has ever seen. The market is held every Thursday from 11am to 2pm until mid-October.
- App – Rep. Rong stated the SA Technology committee was working on the Student Assembly's website, which would be up soon. Additionally, he encouraged all students to visit the Student Assembly's booth during Clubfest on September 11th.
- DOS Candidate Forum - President Berger mentioned that tomorrow, Friday September 2nd at 1:30 two Dean of Student candidates would participate in a forum in the memorial room.
- Light Pollution - VP McBride informed members that next week a light pollution resolution would be presented to redact the current process of building lights on the slope.

VI. Business of the Day

- Resolution 2: Bylaw Changes (D. Barbaria, M. Indimine)
 - The sponsors stated the Bylaws were changed in the executive section, changing the Health and Wellness committee, as well as the Dining Committee's definitions.
 - There was a motion to amend the resolution to add the new proposed text.
 - By a vote of 16-0-0 the resolution was amended.
 - There was a motion to amend Article VIII Section 1 to read, "All members of the community have the right to add a resolution to the Student Assembly Agenda after procuring the written signature of at least a majority of seated SA members, and presenting the signatures to the SA President or their designee for verification, at least 48 hours before the meeting at which the resolution is to be introduced."
 - M. McBride explained that this amendment would add another avenue for introducing and voting on resolutions. Given that certain members of the community may not be able to attend a committee meeting in which they have legislation to introduce this amendment would offer an alternative path.
 - There was a Point of Information to define the current referendum process.
 - Brian Murphy stated that in order to evoke a Sense of the Body, a student needs to solicit the signatures of 10% of undergraduate students, or 3% of the student body and a majority of Assembly members. This is not the same as introducing legislation.
 - G. Kaufman stated that this amendment would allow for the consideration of resolutions and would not make changes to the process evoking a Sense of the Body. He supported this measure as it would mean a student would only need the support of fourteen people instead of 1,400 to have their matter discussed.
 - Y. Wang stated that he supported this amendment because the barrier of half the Assembly was large, and also this amendment allowed for another entry to the resolution process.
 - M. Ghandour believed that this amendment should be addressed fully as it may undermine the work of committees.
 - G. Kaufman believed the amendment was an addition to the committee process.
 - D. Barbaria stated that this amendment may have a negative effect on the referendum process. Additionally, he wanted to see this amendment made in the charter.
 - There was a motion to vote on the amendment.
 - By a vote of 16-0-0 the resolution was amended.
 - J. Selig requested to hear more about why the infrastructure-working group was removed from the Technology committee.
 - D. Barbaria believed the powers were consolidated to the Technology committee.
 - There was a motion to Call the Question.
 - There was dissent.
 - By a vote of 12-1-1 the motion to vote was approved.
 - By a vote of 16-0-0 the Bylaws were approved.
- Resolution 3: Approval of the 2016-2017 Operating Budget (D. Li, M. Indimine, R. Wang)
 - The sponsors stated that changes were made to allow for an evaluation process involving committee expenditures, and that the Technology Committee was only allocated \$350.00, allowing for a bare minimum operation budget. Additionally, the Initiatives Expense Category would now include Technology.
 - There was a motion to amend the Operating Budget.
 - There was a Point of Information over how the Initiatives Expense Category could be spent.
 - R. Wang explained that Initiatives funding could be spent by all committees defined

- under the category, and that Special Project funding could be spent by any committee.
- By a vote of 16-0-0 the Budget was amended.
- There was a motion to Call the Question.
- By a vote of 16-0-0 the Operating Budget was adopted.

VII. New Business

- Resolution 4: Approval of the Elections Committee Slate (M. Ghandour)
 - M. Ghandour stated that the slate of the Elections Committee made up a diverse group of the student body.
 - There was a motion to move the resolution to Business of the Day
 - By unanimous consent the motion was approved.
 - There was a motion to Call the Question.
 - By a vote of 13-0-3, Resolution 4 was adopted.

- Resolution 5: Updating the Charter.
 - The sponsors stated that the Charter changes of the previous Assembly were not submitted properly to President Rawlings, therefore the current Assembly would be required to approve the previous Charter amendments.
 - There was a motion to table.
 - By unanimous consent the Charter was tabled.

- Resolution 6: Changes Establishment of a Policy Research and Planning Ad-Hoc
 - There was a motion to table the resolution.
 - By unanimous consent Resolution 6 was tabled.

- There was a motion to adjourn.

J. Berger adjourned the meeting at 5:45pm to host a forum with the Orientation Steering Committee.

VIII. Orientation Steering Committee Forum

- Co-Chair Ethan Kramer and other members of the OSC introduced themselves.
- Mason Woods '20 wished the Academic Policy Committee and the Orientation Steering Committee could provide avenues for students to think critically and receive more information about their majors, including discussions about the classes they will be required to take throughout their four years and a general overview of their programs.
- D. Barbaria stated that the Academic Policy Committee was open to discussing these types of questions, especially with faculty members, and would be happy to work on this issue.
- A community member wanted the OSC to advertise the open house event, and more important events of each college in a more visible way.
- Ethan Kramer stated that the Orientation Packet included these events, but that he was open to providing more important events with a type of signal or sign of priority.
- Keenen Ashbrook '20 stated the guidebook often buried important events, and given the large number of events, it would be worth it to put events online, or in separate sections.
- E. Kramer stated the Cornell website was changing and guides were being added there.
- Holly Grace '18 stated the bus app and dining app were not well advertised. She recommended they be added to the Cornell Essentials.

- Joe Anderson '20 said the Tapestry Event's Q&A was not receptive and at time even became hostile as it was too large.
- R. Wang said that in the past the total time for Tapestry included a small group discussion following the presentation, however now this discussion only takes place in the auditorium in an attempt to cut down the total time of tapestry.
- A community member added that mandatory attendance to Tapestry could be checked through having students swipe out from the event.
- A community member stated that Speak About It was better than Tapestry, and also that he wanted Clubfest to occur earlier in the semester.
- E. Kramer stated that Clubfest usually occurred earlier, however this year Barton Hall is being resurfaced, causing Clubfest to be pushed back this year. Students also often feel inundated early on, and hosting Clubfest later on allows students to process more information.
- Anthony Brights '20 asked about Orientation group structure and if there was a different number of students which could make up groups.
- The OSC members stated that retaining small student groups has been a challenge for many years, and is mainly due to the number of Orientation Leader volunteers.
- A community member suggested creating a google calendar as a useful way to provide event information.
- R. Wang asked about ash trays around campus, and suggested providing more near trashcans.
- A. Iglesias stated the smoking policy was under review and that oftentimes current ash trays violate the campus code requiring smoking to occur more than twenty feet away from buildings. He believed ash trays were not necessary, because the campus was trying to cut down on smoking.
- A community member was angered by the lack of trashcans and recycling bins on campus.
- H. Reichel stated this was a problem the Environmental Committee hoped to tackle this year.
- A community member stated he was annoyed by the lack of water fountains in dorm rooms.
- J. Berger stated these issues should be discussed with the Student Assembly Infrastructure Fund Committee, and adjourned the forum.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter F. Biedenweg

Assembly Clerk, Office of the Assemblies